

ANOREXIA NERVOSA AND OBESITY; Being the Proceedings of a Symposium held on 5th May, 1972, at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Edited by R. F. Robertson and A. T. Proudfoot. (Pp. 130. Illustrated. £2.00). Edinburgh: The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 1973.

THIS symposium was a valuable meeting between disciplines, including the physiology of energy balance, endocrinology, life insurance statistics and psychiatry. The clinical syndromes of anorexia nervosa and of obesity have for long fascinated clinicians and research workers in all of these fields. There have been many reviews of the physiology and endocrine adaptation in obesity but relatively little on the less common condition of anorexia nervosa. The publication of this book is therefore valuable as a summary of present thinking on this condition on behalf of psychiatrists and metabolic physicians. The review of the management of anorexia nervosa by G. F. M. Russell, Professor of Psychiatry at the Royal Free Hospital in London is particularly valuable, with an excellent discussion of the role of the nurse as well as that of the physician in some of these very difficult and longterm problems.

The relationship between obesity and the development of clinical diabetes has so far eluded a simple explanation. The discussion by Dr. Joyce Baird from the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh summarises the recent developments in this field, and the possible longterm effects of obesity in childhood are discussed by Dr. June Lloyd from the Institute of Child Health in London.

D.R.H.

BRAIN'S CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. Revised by Roger Bannister. Fourth Edition. (Pp. xii+439; figs. 83. Boards. £4.80; paper £3.00). London: Oxford University Press, 1973.

THIS is the fourth edition of this deservedly popular and reasonably priced textbook. There have been a few additions of a brief nature such as disease due to "slow virus" infection. With rising costs it will be necessary to prune future editions to keep this book good value for money and therefore popular with undergraduates. Perhaps the chapter on poliomyelitis could be shortened. Eleven lines for the vaso-vagal attacks of Gower seems excessive when neuralgic amyotrophy receives only seven!

J.H.D.M.

CANCER OF THE UTERINE CERVIX. By E. C. Easson. (Pp. viii+158). Illustrated £4 00). London: W. B. Saunders Ltd. 1973.

"THE challenge of cancer in the community must be met by a multi-disciplinary attack, and this must be sustained above all by a proper sense of urgency," states the editor. He and a team of nine contributors from the Christie Hospital and Holt Institute, Manchester, review cancer of the uterine cervix in all its aspects. The book contains chapters on the prevention, early diagnosis, evaluation of different methods of radium treatment, terminal care of the incurable patient and finally the prospects for the future.

This is an interesting book for each chapter is written by a specialist in his field. The problems they have encountered are discussed so that a colleague could easily learn to avoid them. However, the real purpose of the book is to encourage doctors to eliminate cancer of the cervix from the community, therefore it should be read in its entirety and not only those chapters in which the reader is specially interested.

The cytology service is described in detail. A tremendous effort has been made to evaluate the necessity of such a service, the age at which it should commence and finally to establish the frequency with which the smear should be repeated by a system of recall over and above the usual routine. Many hitherto unknown facts have been observed, e.g., the highest incidence of abnormal smears are found among widows and recently divorced yet the ordinary request form does not include such details so that such people could be classified under the special "at risk" group.